

CONGRATULATING THE PASCUA
YAQUI TRIBE ON ITS 40TH ANNI-
VERSARY

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 5, 2018

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Pascua Yaqui Tribe on its 40th year anniversary of being federally-recognized.

The Pascua Yaqui tribe descended from the Uto-Aztecan people, who occupied a large area of the Southwest regions and west coast of Mexico. Yaqui culture and spirituality are important elements to the tribe. The Pascua Yaqui tribe is best known for the deer dancer and Pascola, along other cultural ceremonies and Yaqui symbols such as "Our Father Sun;" the Tribe has successfully preserved its cultural relations through valued oral lore throughout the years. Today, the tribe has communities spanning across Southern Arizona surrounded by richly vegetated and scenic desert lands.

The Pascua Yaqui Tribe provides unique insight that adds diverse cultural heritage to Arizona's desert community. The tribe is well-known for its design and manufacture ceremonial paraphernalia such as artistic Baskets, reed crowns, wood mask carving, rattles, stuffed-deer heads, and notable arts unique to the Pascua Yaqui Tribe. At present, there are about one hundred hamlets and villages within the Yaqui territory, assigned for political, religious, and ritual purposes. The linguistic classification of the Tribe is a surviving language derived from the Cahita ethnicity, one that the Yaqui and Mayo people still preserve. The Yaqui were, and part still remain, settled agriculturists, depending on summer rainfall due to the desert lowlands.

Mr. Speaker, please join me and all of Arizona's Third Congressional District in expressing our sincerest congratulations to the Pascua Yaqui Tribe on their 40th anniversary as a Federally-recognized tribe. I am grateful for the Pascua Yaqui Tribe's dedication to their culture and representation of the Southwest Native American roots.

MR. RAY FITZGERALD'S REMARK-
ABLE SERVICE TO HIS COUNTRY

HON. MO BROOKS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 5, 2018

Mr. BROOKS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in order to recognize the remarkable career of a great American, Mr. Ray Fitzgerald, a distinguished member of the Senior Executive Service, upon the occasion of his retirement after 46 years of selfless service to our nation. A highly respected leader, Ray Fitzgerald has made immeasurable contributions to the warfighter and the military community as a whole.

Mr. Fitzgerald had an exemplary military career. Upon graduating from the University of Alabama in 1972, he entered the U.S. Army.

Rising to the rank of Colonel, his assignments included; Chief of Staff of the deployed 101st Airborne Division Task Force in Kosovo; Commander of the 101st Airborne Division Garrison at Fort Campbell, Ky.; Chief of Staff and Deputy Commander of the Joint Readiness Training Center at Fort Polk, La.; senior brigade observer/controller at the Joint Readiness Training Center (JRTC); and Commander of U.S. Forces in the Balkans (Bosnia). Mr. Fitzgerald also commanded the 1st Battalion, 50 8th Infantry (Airborne) during Operation Just Cause.

Mr. Fitzgerald was appointed to the Senior Executive Service after 30 years of Active Duty service as an Army Infantry Officer. He has led organizations at every level, culminating in his assignment as the Vice Director of the Joint Improvised-Threat Defeat Organization (JIDO).

Mr. Fitzgerald served with distinction as the Deputy Director for Interagency and Interdepartmental Cooperation at the Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Organization (JIEDDO) and was the Department of Defense Executive Manager detailed to the FBI's Terrorist Explosive Device Analytical Center (TEDAC), Quantico, VA. There he supported TEDAC's mission to eradicate the IED threat by providing scientific and technical exploitation, actionable intelligence, timely responses to requests and forecasting worldwide threats. While assigned to JIEDDO and JIDO, Mr. Fitzgerald has deployed multiple times to both Iraq and Afghanistan. His most recent deployment to Iraq in 2016 was as the Senior Coalition Advisor for the security of Baghdad. His 2014 deployment to Afghanistan was as the Senior Coalition Advisor/Mentor to the Afghanistan National Security Advisor.

Prior to JIDO, Mr. Fitzgerald served at the Department of State, where he was the Chief of Staff for the Bureau of Resource Management. His State Department duties also included two 18 month tours in Afghanistan and Iraq, where he served as the senior State Department representative responsible for Afghanistan Police Reform and as the political advisor (POLAD) to Task Force 714.

Ray Fitzgerald is the best friend a Warfighter ever had. He is a passionate, selfless leader who has devoted his life and energies to ensuring Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines receive the best possible training, equipment, intelligence, and tactical support. While serving with JIDO, he has applied his extensive military background and knowledge to a myriad of material and non-material problem sets. His tenure spanned some of the most dangerous and critical periods in our Nation's fight against terrorism. As an aside, Mr. Fitzgerald never avoided a difficult task or assignment, tackled every complex problem, and consistently made a difference for deployed Warfighters.

Our Nation's history is grounded in the efforts of those like Ray Fitzgerald, who have served this nation with great distinction. He exemplifies what it means to commit one's life to his country and has more than earned our admiration and respect. Mr. Fitzgerald leaves a legacy of service that will most certainly serve as an inspiration to others for years to come.

My fellow colleagues, please join me in congratulating Mr. Ray Fitzgerald as he enters the next chapter of his life.

TRIBUTE TO FERNANDO MIGUEL
NEGRON RODRIGUEZ

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 5, 2018

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, I want to honor Fernando Miguel Negron Rodriguez, as a distinguished leader in Central Florida for Hispanic Heritage Month. Fernando Miguel Negron Rodriguez, was born and raised in the town of Cayey, Puerto Rico. He is the father of Fernando M. Negron Santos and Karina Isabella Negron Santos. He is the son of the legendary TV personality and radio icon, Miguel Angel Negron.

As one of the most popular radio hosts in the Hispanic community in Central Florida. To say that through his veins runs radio, it's an understatement.

For the last 20 years, he has been the host to *Quédate con Miguel Radio*, he is known to many as a great communicator but also as someone very passionate about the Hispanic community and educating voters in our region. Fernando M. Negron has become an influential and respected personality in local politics as well as national politics. Every day he uses his experience to shine light at problems that affect the Hispanic diaspora in Central and South Florida.

IN MEMORY OF VAIL JOHNSON

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 5, 2018

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the life and memory of Vail Johnson, a young girl from my district who passed away unexpectedly on August 31, 2016 from a heart condition.

Two years after her death, the North Texas community is continuing to honor her life through the work of Friends of Vail. This foundation, established by Vail's parents Susan and Chad Chance, has dedicated a new outdoor classroom at the Pilot Point intermediate school in her memory. Through the Friends of Vail foundation, her family has donated funds to other community needs both large and small.

The foundation's work is a testament to an extraordinary child. As a fourth-grade student at Pilot Point Elementary School, Vail was known for kindness and generosity. She loved horses, softball, and the color green. A bright student and writer, Vail also competed nationally as an equestrian and began playing softball.

Two years after her loss, Vail Johnson is remembered as a girl who brought love and joy to others wherever she went. She is deeply missed, and her generous spirit will not be forgotten. I extend my deepest condolences to her family, and all who knew and loved her.